



FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

ALTADENA • La CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE • La CRESCENTA

September 17, 1997

The Honorable James Rogan
Member of Congress
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Perchlorate Contamination Problem

Dear Congressman Rogan:

A new contaminant, Perchlorate, has recently been detected by the California Department of Health Services in the Raymond Groundwater Basin at the NASA/JPL Superfund site. Perchlorate is a rocket fuel ingredient that EPA and State Health officials have indicated is a serious public health threat (see enclosed three page background fact sheet and California Department of Health Services document on perchlorate investigation). The primary source of the contamination in the Arroyo Seco is the JPL facilities. The City of Pasadena has already had to shut down one well because of the Perchlorate contamination. The Lincoln Avenue Water Company (which serves the western portion of Altadena) has a well approaching the drinking water action level of 18 parts per billion.

Perchlorate contamination has also been found downstream of other aerospace facilities (Aerojet in the San Gabriel Valley and Lockheed in San Bernardino). In addition, Perchlorate has been found in the Colorado River downstream from the Kerr-McGee Perchlorate manufacturing plant located in Las Vegas Valley and the contamination is flowing into Lake Mead. As a result of these Perchlorate problems, Congressman Jerry Lewis has added \$2 million in the EPA budget for fiscal year 1998 for research on the treatment of perchlorate. Senator Boxer has also requested that the National Institute of Health conduct a nine month health effects study from Perchlorate in drinking water.

The Raymond Basin Management Board, the court appointed watermaster representing all the drinking water utilities pumping groundwater from the Raymond Basin, has requested NASA/JPL/Caltech to fund a study and investigation of the Perchlorate contamination and to develop an Action Plan to treat the contaminated well water. Enclosed is a copy of the letter requesting NASA to fund this independent investigation of the Perchlorate problem. This \$300,000-\$500,000 study would focus on the Raymond Basin's assessment of the extent of the Perchlorate contamination, through water quality sampling of wells and groundwater modeling.

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and possible remediation strategies to contain the contaminants. This work would complement the EPA research on cost-effective treatment technologies.

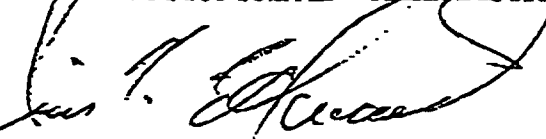
I am requesting your support and assistance in requesting NASA to fund this investigation by the court appointed Raymond Basin Management Board to ensure that the Perchlorate problem is immediately addressed to assure the public that our drinking water is safe to drink. In addition, the urgency of this matter is paramount when you consider that the water utilities depend upon their local groundwater wells as their emergency and drought supply. With the imported water from northern California from the State Water Project very uncertain year to year because of the CALFED Bay-Delta ecosystem and endangered species problems, and the Colorado River supplies to the Metropolitan Water District being at risk due to increasing use in Arizona and Nevada, it is a critical priority to maintain our local drinking water wells to assure an ample supply to our customers.

Jim, this is not a wait and see problem. This is a "We have to act now" problem. And we will need all the help we can get to resolve it. Well head readings of perchlorate are going up at several wells. We will make time to meet with you or your staff.

Thank you for your assistance on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Ron Palmer, General Manager of the Foothill Municipal Water District, if we can answer any questions that you or your staff may have on this Perchlorate issue.

Very truly yours,

FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



James T. Edwards, President
Board of Directors

Enclosures

- Perchlorate RBMB 3 page fact sheet
- DHS fact sheet/web page info on perchlorate
- Congressman Lewis and Senator Boxer press releases on their action
- Raymond Basin Management Board letter to NASA